

(b) The main cause of acute shortage of water in Rajasthan is deficient rainfall. For overcoming the shortage Government of Rajasthan have taken up construction of water harvesting structures/Anicuts under various schemes for water recharging besides rehabilitation of traditional methods of water storages like wells, Bawari tanks etc. and conjunctive use of surface and ground water. State Government have also undertaken construction of small structures like check dams, percolation tanks etc. Efforts are also being made to formulate an implement ground water legislation. As a long term measure national Water Development Agency is also carrying out the feasibility studies for interbasin transfer of water which will benefit Rajasthan.

Irrigation Projects in Rajasthan

304. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether any provision has been made for irrigation project in Rajasthan to help farmers in view of the drought situation in the State;

if so the nature of the provision made; and

the towns and districts in Rajasthan which are likely to be benefited from the provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Funds/assistance to fight drought affected situation in the States is not provided by the Ministry of Water Resources. However Ministry is providing Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for expeditious completion of ongoing major/medium irrigation projects.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Finalization of New "Water Policy

305. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

whether Government have since finalized New Water Policy;

if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be finalized?